fwd: LRM
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September 21, 2005
By Fax: 416-736 5769

Professor Patricia Bradshaw
Chair of Senate York University
University Secretariat
Room N926 Ross Building
4700 Keele Street
Toronto, Ontario M3J 1P3

Dear Professor Bradshaw,

As you may know, B'nai Brith Canada has often worked with institutions like yours to strengthen the fabric of Canada's multicultural society. In recent days we have been contacted by Jewish students at York, including students in Professor David Noble's classes, who are very concerned about their academic standing should his current campaign to end religious accommodation for Jewish students succeed, either now or in the future.

York University can certainly be proud of the inroads it has made towards accommodation of the religious needs of minority groups. Most recently, we understand that the review sub-committee examining Professor Noble's demands has recommended that the existing policy be upheld, and that this report will be going to the Senate this Thursday for approval. However, we have been informed that Professor Noble still intends to pursue this issue both on campus and in the broader community.

It is for this reason that we note with concern the caveat in the report of the sub-committee to the Senate Executive that "it may be necessary to revisit this matter in the future". Given that Professor Noble has taken this matter outside the university, and has expressed a determination to continue to push this issue, we remain concerned about future efforts to undermine York's policy of accommodation, and the opportunity for further challenge that this caveat offers.

Moreover, the Professor has reportedly vowed to hold classes on the High Holidays in violation of university policy and we would like to ask how the university intends to deal with such a contravention - and the fall-out it would have on Jewish students - should he proceed with this threat.

We trust that the members of the Senate will stand firm both now and in the future, and thank you in advance for clarifying the above issues.

Yours sincerely,

A Bromberg

Anita Bromberg, Legal Counsel
B'nai Brith Canada

cc: Dr. Lorna Marsden, President and Vice-Chancellor, York University ✓
Ms. Fiona Crean, Ombudsperson, York University



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